



Marden High School

Friday 7th June 2024

Dear All

As you may be aware I do write in this newsletter from time to time about how we all need to work together to ensure our children are safe on their way to and from school. Recently I met with North Tyneside councillors to discuss how we can work with them to improve and enhance transport and travel in our local area, and following fruitful discussion we arrived at a set of principles that we want to uphold.

- Students will experience a secure, safe, enjoyable, respectful environment travelling to and arriving at the school.
- The experience will contribute positively to safeguarding students' health & emotional wellbeing.
- The school community will feel a sense of pride and belonging in their neighbourhood.
- School travel will operate in a way that minimises impact on the school's neighbours and the local environment.

It is my belief that for the majority of students this will already be the case, but I also believe that there is no room for complacency in working at the things we value and want to keep. So, to this end, we will be giving students the chance to influence the council's infrastructure plans and shape future investment in key routes and crossings they use travelling to and from school. Councillors will work to find the resources and investment to implement both quick wins and long-term changes which contribute to our shared objectives, and councillors and the school will work together to reduce the impact of traffic close to the school gates.

The Connect Mental Health Support Team in North Tyneside is inviting parents and carers supporting children and young people with social, emotional, and mental health needs to a virtual support group on Wednesday this coming week. The virtual group is a place for parents and carers to share their experiences, help and support each other and get information and advice to support them. June's support group will share tips and strategies that will help parents and carers to support their children in particular with school transition later this year, and this link contains further information and booking details:

<https://shorturl.at/aefqR>.

Another year, and yet another perplexing investigation for our Year 8 students in English. Now in its twelfth year, *Marden She Wrote 2024: A Mug's Life* was launched this week with the mystery of Mr. Ranson's stolen coffee mug. Over the coming weeks, careful investigation, deduction and inference will be required from the students to solve our most complex 'whodunnit' yet. We look forward to a range of critical and creative theories, supported by evidence and reasoning in a variety of written formats, before the culprit(s) is or are finally revealed in a thrilling conclusion later this month. As the short films are available through the [English subject cloud](#), it may well be that you will come up with a theory of your own.

Year 10 students have been given information on applying to become a prefect this week and have until Tuesday to write and submit their letters of application to Mr Topping and me. This is a great opportunity for students to take on extra responsibilities and to enhance their leadership skills, and is always an impressive thing to talk about at interview for sixth form, college, university and work. The purple tie that they wear is the outward sign that our students are prefects but it is worth remembering that it is the attitudes and standards shown by those in post that really reflect that position of leadership.

As I am sure everybody is aware, school budgets across the country have been under considerable and increasing pressure over recent years, due to a combination of increasing costs of resources, including staff and energy, and reduced funding to schools. At Marden we are in the relatively happy situation of having been prudent with our finances and of therefore having accrued a small but useful surplus, good practice for a rainy day. However, we find ourselves using that surplus to pay for the basic essentials in order to avoid going into a deficit, a predicament an increasing number of other schools sadly are finding themselves in. As we are already very efficient with our use of resources, there is no area of expenditure which offers the potential to make any big savings, so we have turned our attention to identifying any potential marginal gains, either in savings or to bring funding in. In this vein, we will be increasing our published admissions number from the current 181 students to 184 students in each year group, and therefore bringing a small but significant amount of additional funding into school. This will take effect from next year, so our Year 7 entrants in September 2025 will be 184 strong.

Later this week we are supporting members of our school community celebrating the Muslim holiday Eid al-Adha. Eid al-Adha, or the Holiday of Sacrifice, is the second and the larger of the two main holidays celebrated in Islam. It honours the willingness of Abraham to sacrifice his son Ishmael as an act of obedience to God's command. "Eid Mubarak" is the traditional phrase used by Muslims to greet each other during the Eid al-Fitr and Eid al-Adha celebrations, therefore to all those celebrating this month; a heartfelt Eid Mubarak. Meanwhile, this month we have Race Unity Day. At Marden we are proud to have a diverse community of students, staff and others involved in our school. On 11 June, we observe Race Unity Day,

also known as Race Amity Day. The day was started by the Bahá'í National Spiritual Assembly in the United States in 1957. The purpose of the day is to raise awareness to the importance of racial harmony and understanding, and is in line with our school values. Pride Month is a month dedicated to celebration and commemoration of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender pride. Pride Month began after the Stonewall riots, a series of gay liberation protests in 1969, and has since spread outside of the United States. This month celebrations include pride parades, picnics, parties, workshops, symposia and concerts, and LGBTQ Pride Month events attract millions of participants around the world donning their rainbow colours. All these celebrations are signs of agency, hope and leadership, our core values at Marden, and it is with great pride that we celebrate everyone's individuality.

Monday saw the Year 9 Cricket team play a quarter final County Cup match against Newcastle School for Boys. In the superb arena that is South Northumberland CC, Marden won the toss and elected to bowl first. The bowling and fielding were excellent and limited NSB to 63 runs. With 64 required to win, the team started very well with the bat and looked to be cruising to victory. However an excellent spell from the opposition bowlers halted the charge, meaning the game was still in the balance heading into the very last over. The boys kept their composure, batting intelligently and scored the runs required to win the match. The semi-final sees them take on RGS from Newcastle. We wish them the best of luck.

On Tuesday the Year 7 and 8 boys and girls Athletics teams represented Tynemouth schools at the North Tyneside Championships. Although the afternoon was disrupted by the weather, most of the competitors were able to perform and the majority did exceptionally well. Those that made the top 3 in their event will now have the opportunity to represent North Tyneside at the County Championships at Gateshead International Stadium later this month. Well done to all.

And finally, the Year 9/10 Boys tennis team played their opening match in the Northumberland Tennis League against Duchess High School in Alnwick. After making the long trip North, the boys played very well and produced some fantastic tennis resulting in a 12-0 win.

Thank you for your continued support.



Mr M. Snape
Head Teacher